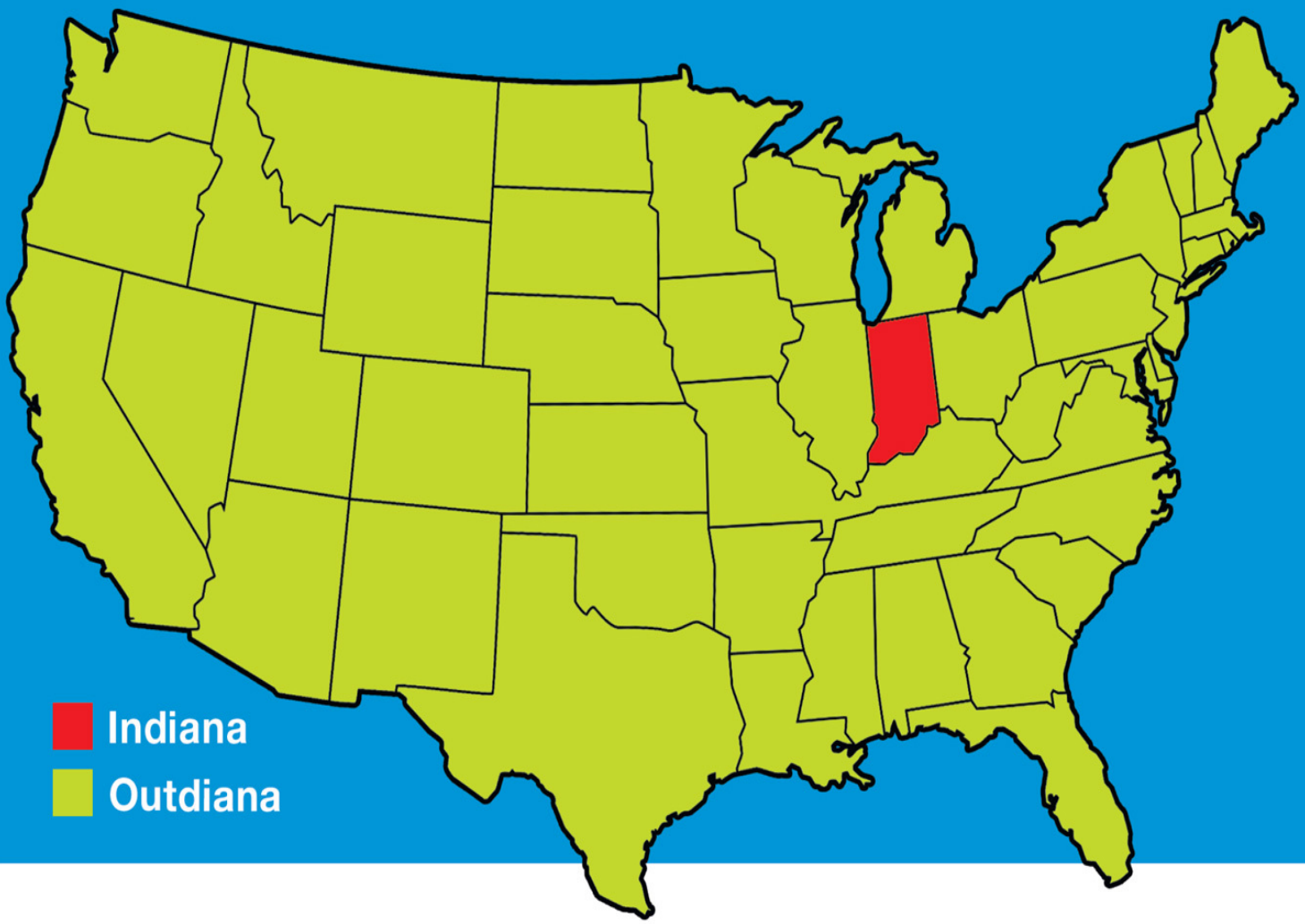

Terrible Maps

Hilarious Maps for a Ridiculous World

Terrible Maps

Hilarious Maps for a Ridiculous World

Michael Howe

HarperCollins*Publishers*

Terrible Maps has been the home of maps with a pinch of humour for nearly ten years. You can find us here:

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Terrible Maps

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About the Publisher

Introduction

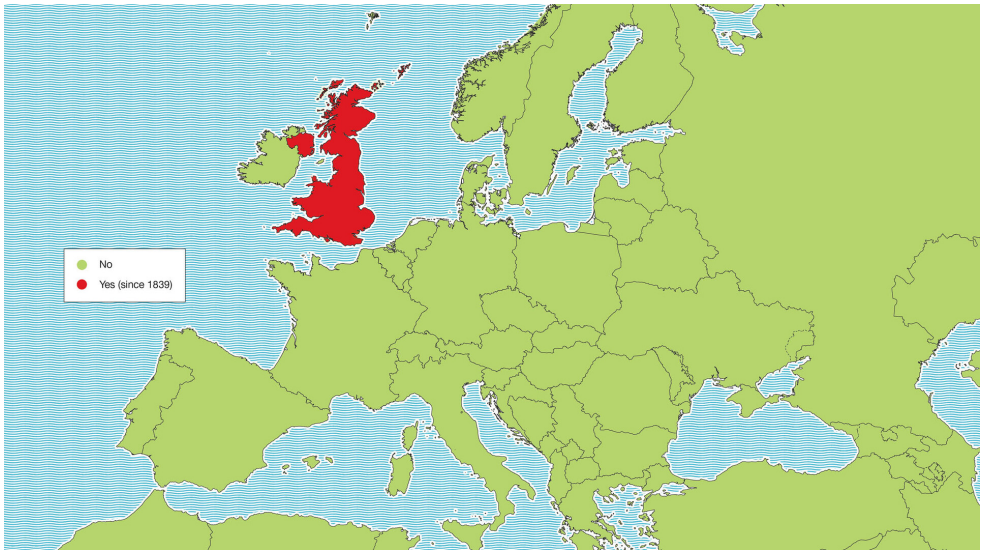
Welcome to the world of Terrible Maps, where geographical accuracy takes a backseat and getting lost is practically guaranteed. This book is a collection of maps ranging from humorously inaccurate to completely absurd, where stereotypes are exposed and quirks are celebrated. If you're looking for highly accurate, politically correct and meticulously researched cartography, then you've come to the wrong place. However, if you're ready to embrace the unconventional and indulge in the amusingly terrible side of mapping then keep reading. Whether you are a geography enthusiast, lover of satire or simply looking to purchase a gift for someone that you don't like very much, this book is for you.

Terrible Maps emerged on social media in 2015 as a spin-off from Amazing Maps. After posting interesting, sensible, factual maps on social media for a few years as Amazing Maps it became clear that humans inherently like to whine because every comment section was full of complaints, arguments and general negative feedback. I was struck with an idea. Why not post maps that aren't meant to be good, that defy rational criticism, that transcend the boundaries of 'right' or 'wrong'? Terrible Maps was born.

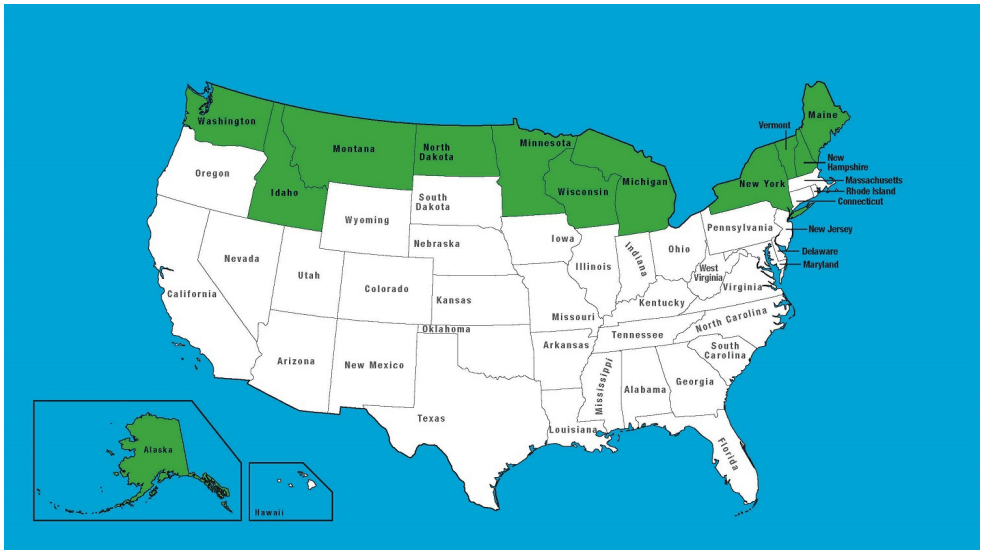
Initially created as nothing more than a joke, the global thirst for terrible maps has been phenomenal. Across Twitter, Instagram and Facebook there are now more than 2.8 million followers of Terrible Maps at the time of writing – no wonder the world seems so lost!

Within these pages, I present to you a condensed assortment of some of the most terrible maps ever conceived. Fasten your seatbelts and grab your compass as we embark on a fun-filled journey that will challenge your notions of scale and sense of direction, and remind you never to take a map too seriously.

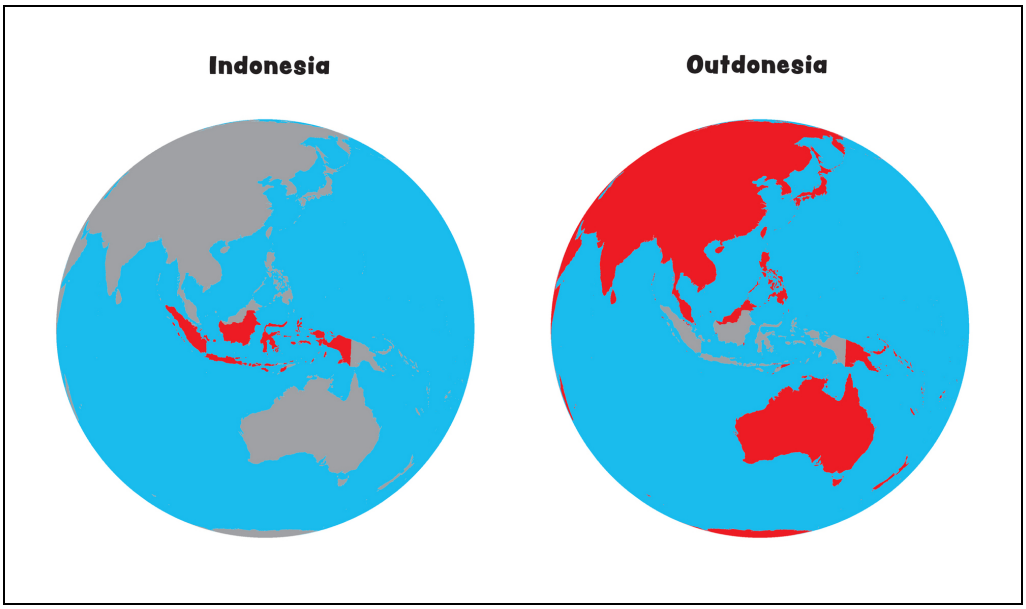
Is it against the law to knock on a door and run away?



The top 12 states to live in

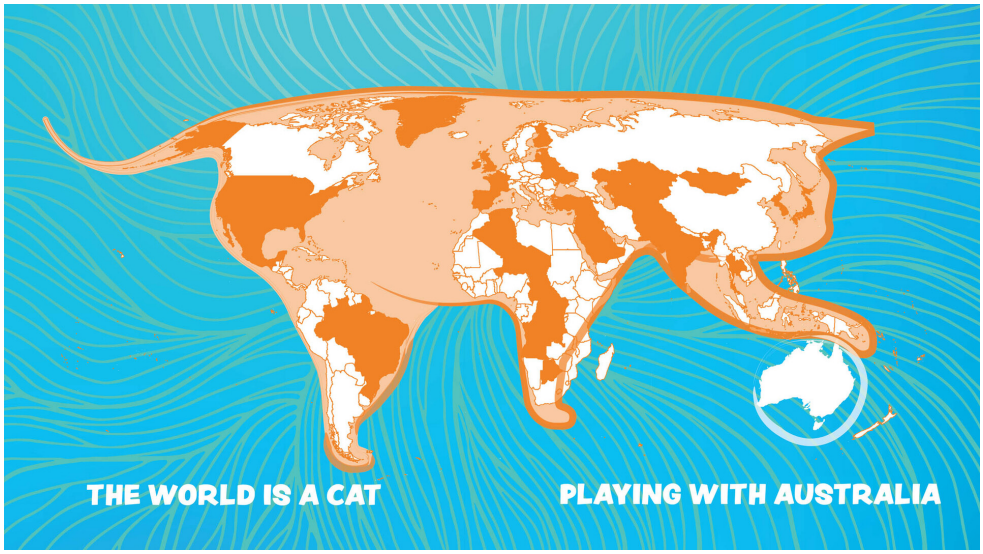


Indonesia/Outdonesia

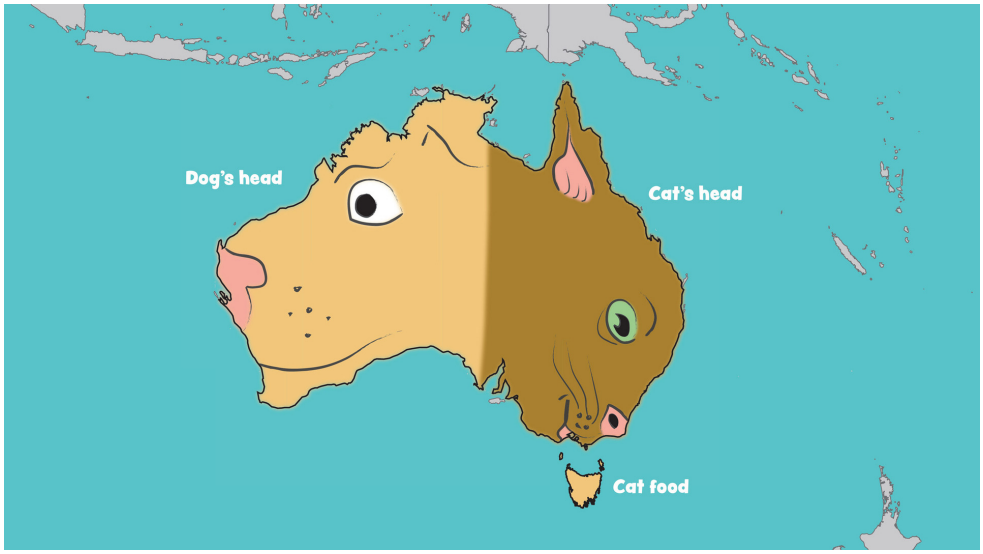


Saudi Arabia mapped only by its rivers

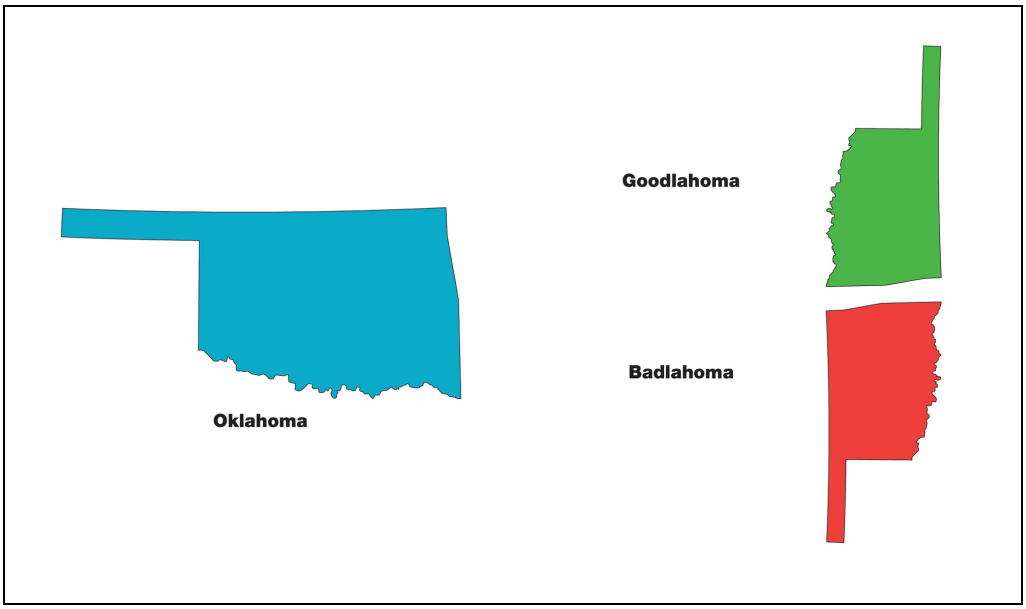
Cat earth theory



Australia: you’ll never see it the same way again



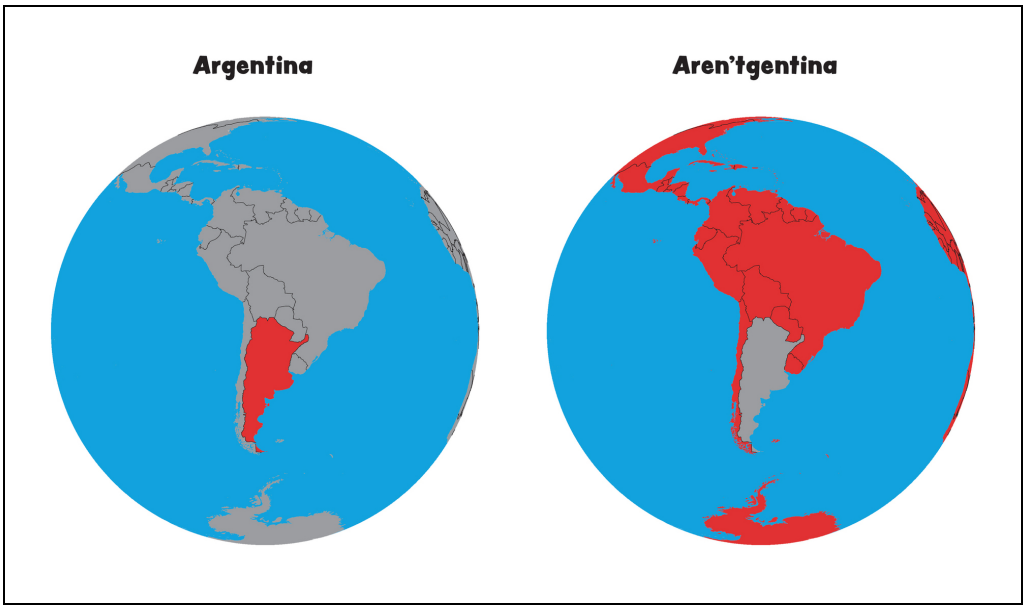
Oklahoma if it was used to express feelings



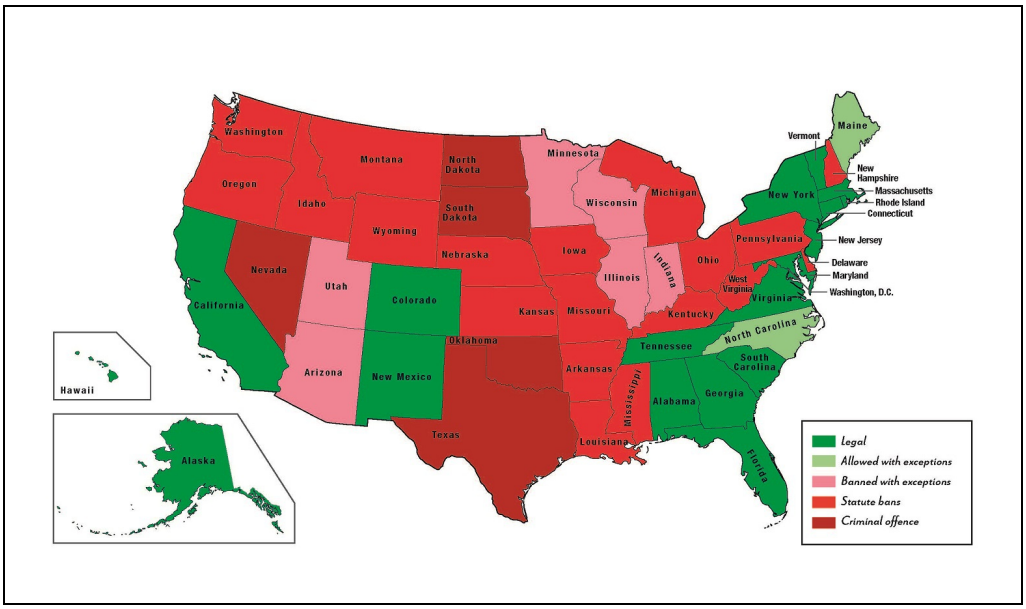
The ‘international community’

Coldest season of the year

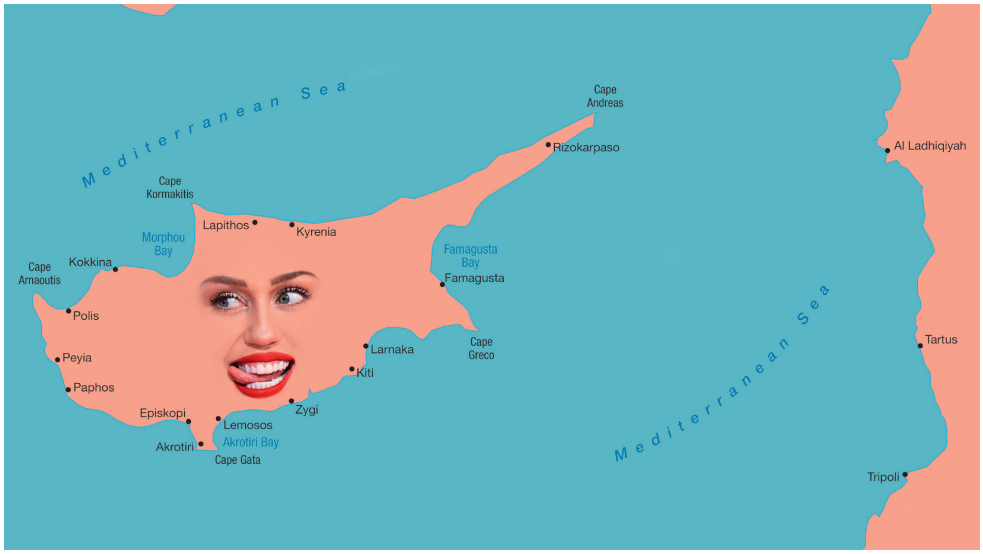
Argentina/Aren’tgentina



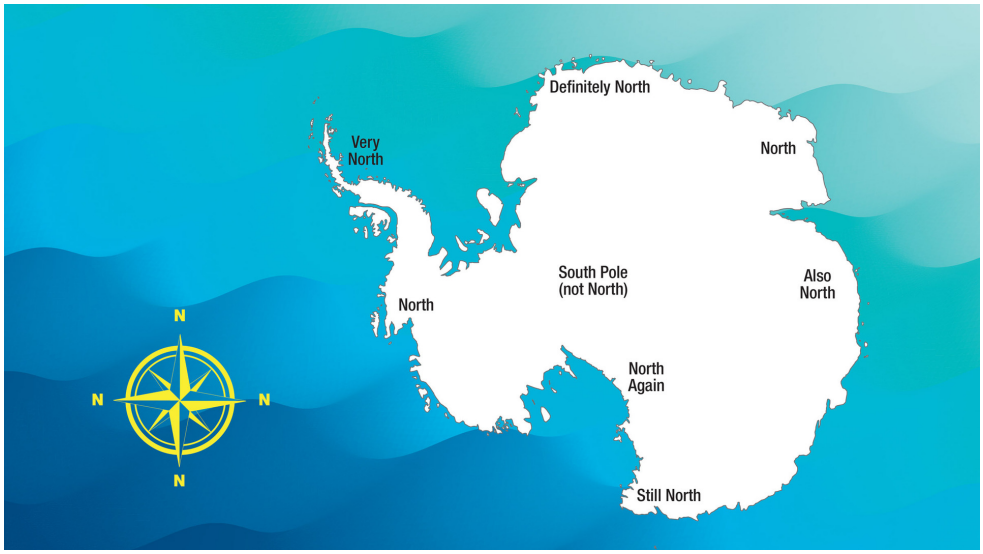
Where you can marry your first cousin in the United States



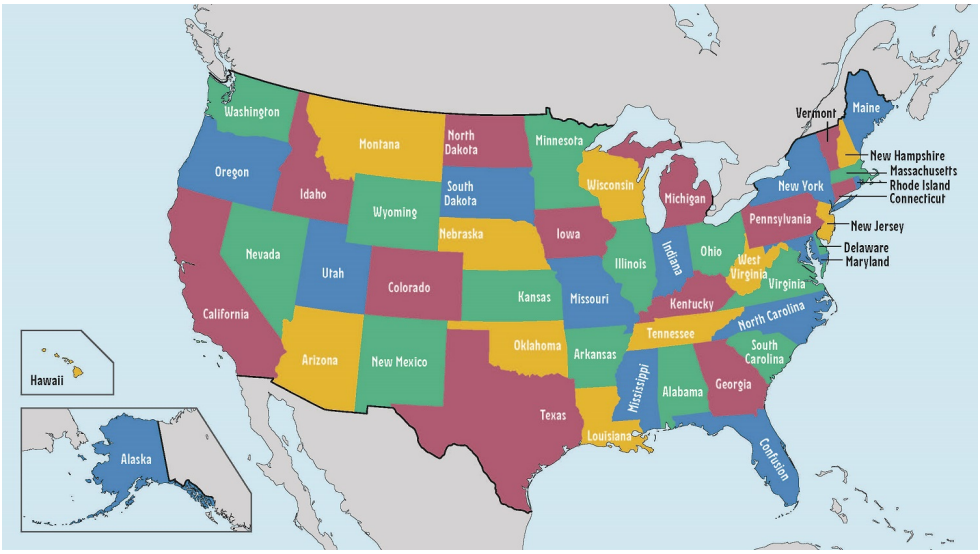
Miley Cyprus



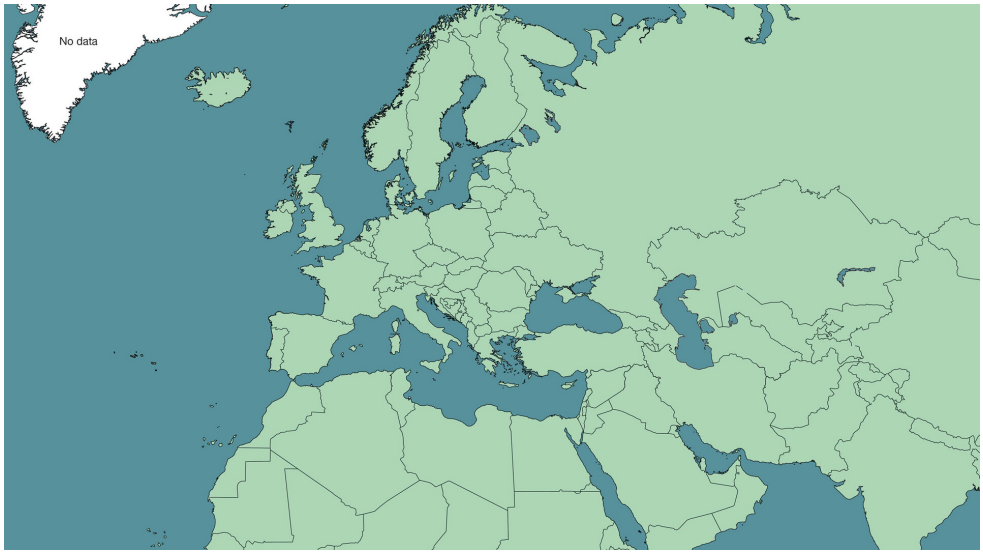
How to find your bearings in Antarctica



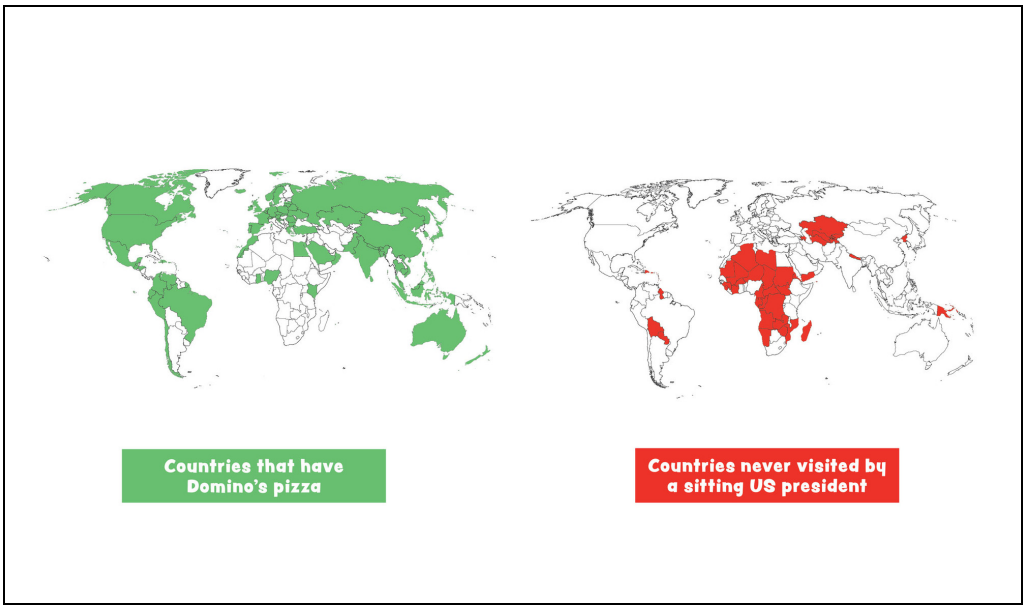
Most common answer from respondents after being asked what state they are in



Map of Roman air bases in 2nd century AD



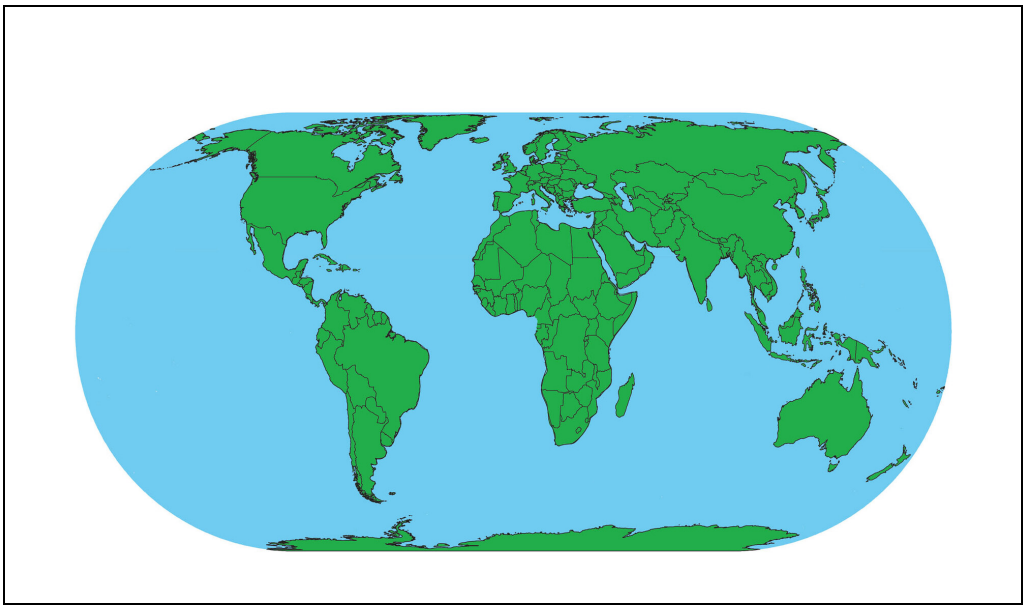
Coincidence?



Fatalities from texting and driving in 1960

Traffic signs for ‘No pedestrians’ across Europe

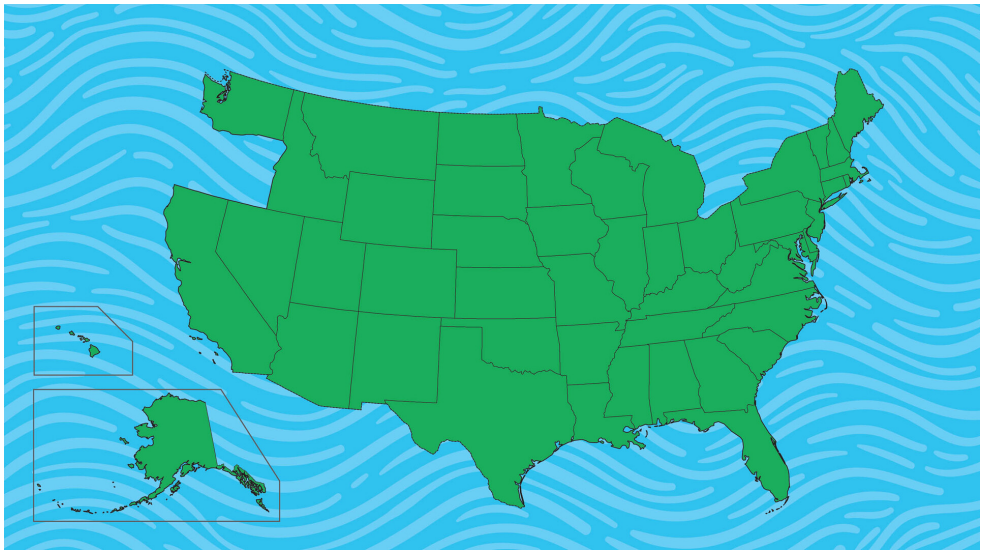
More people live in the green area than the blue area



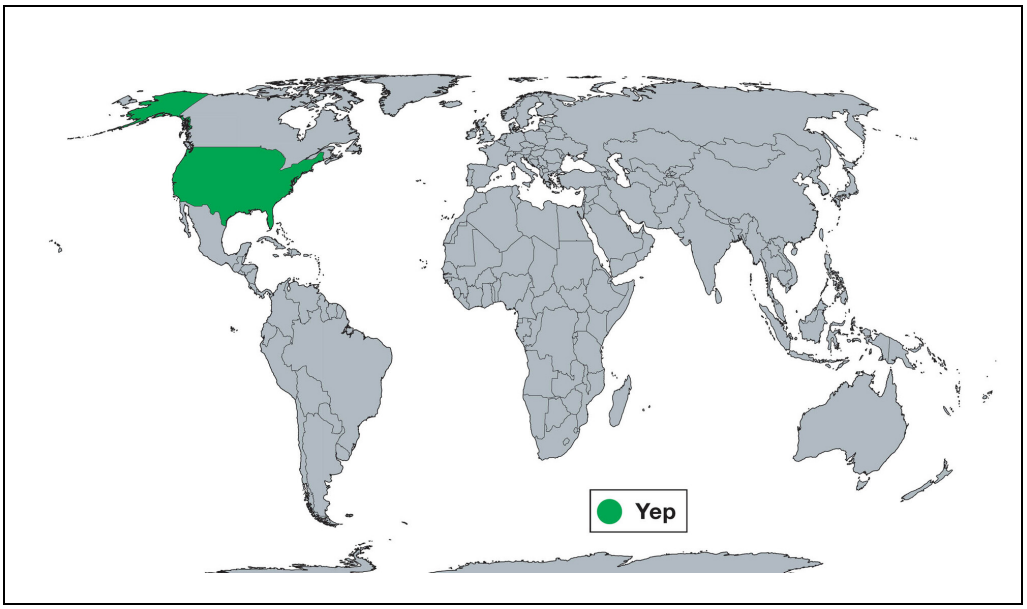
You can sail in a straight line from England to France

EU later, alligator

Map of the United States if it was an Oregon donor



An extensive map of all countries that use the MM/DD/YYYY date format



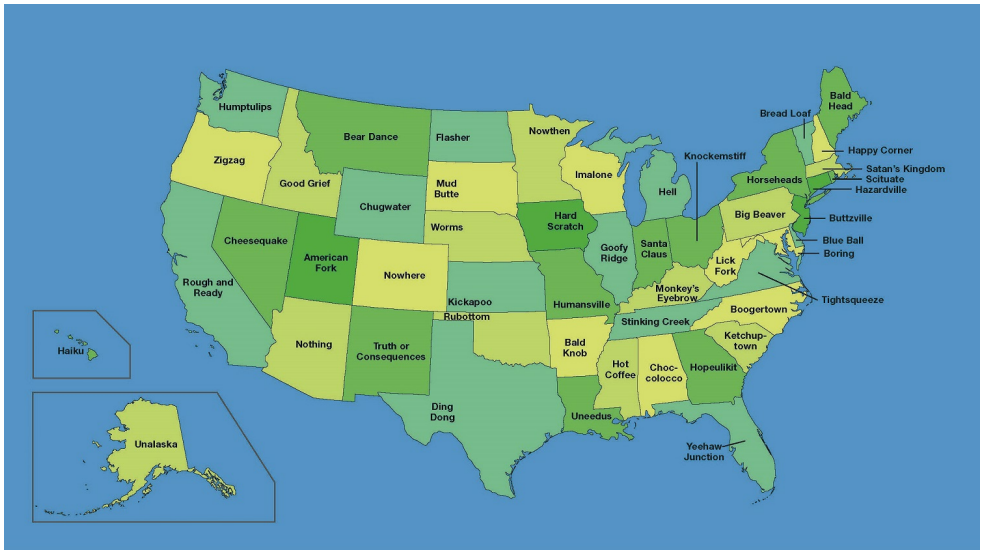
Railway map of Antarctica

The great British bread off

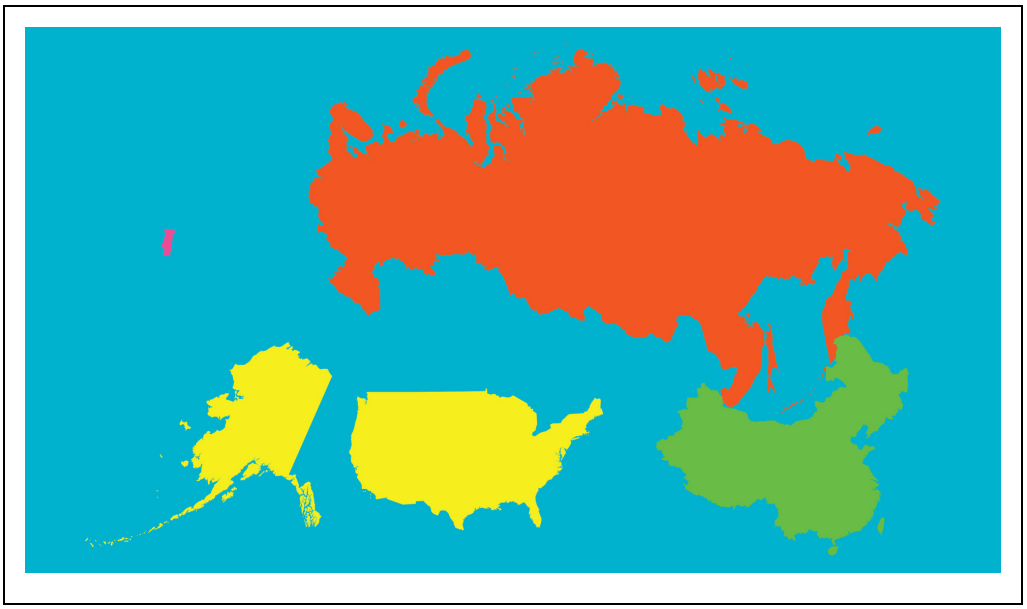
I can’t unsee this

Electricity consumption in Europe in 1507

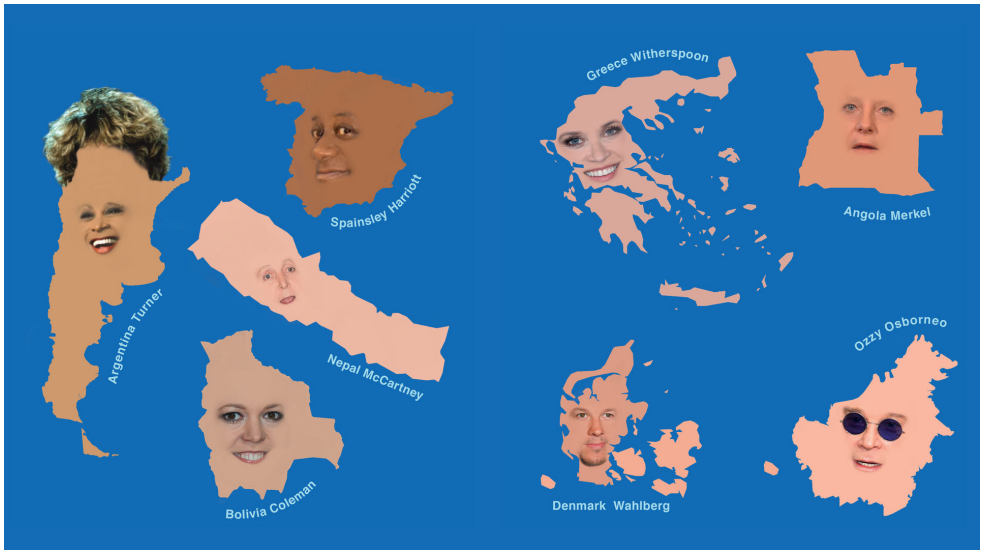
The United States of terrible town names



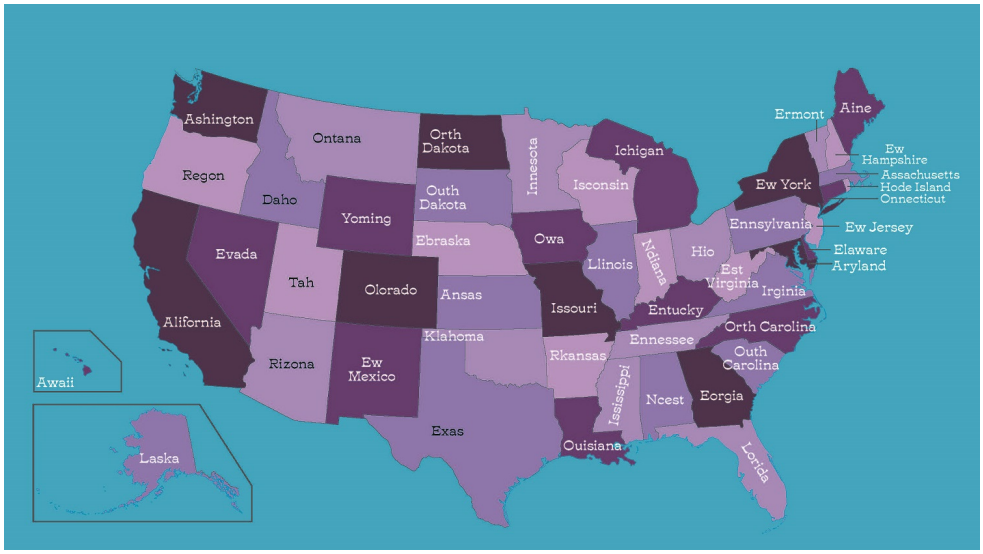
Portugal is smaller than the United States, Russia and China combined



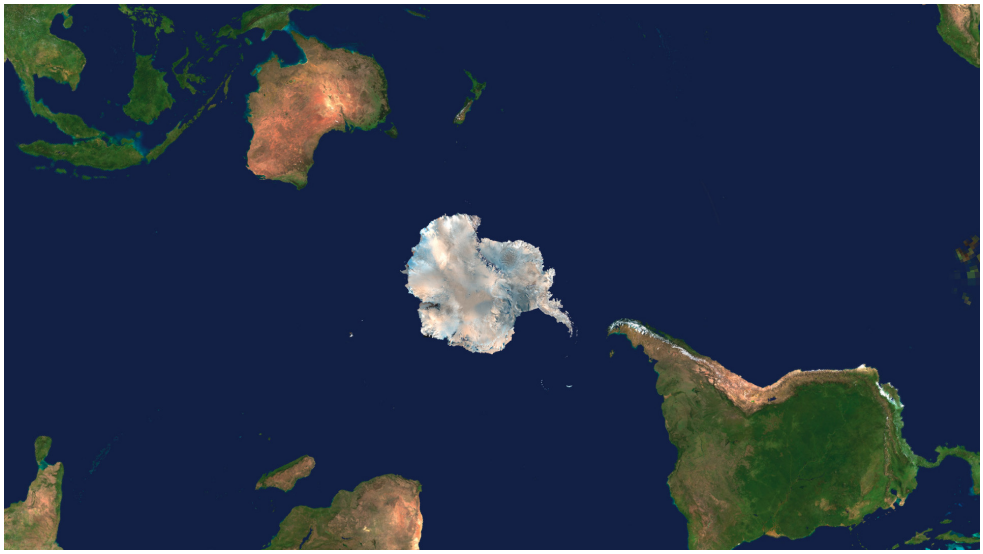
Map of famous places



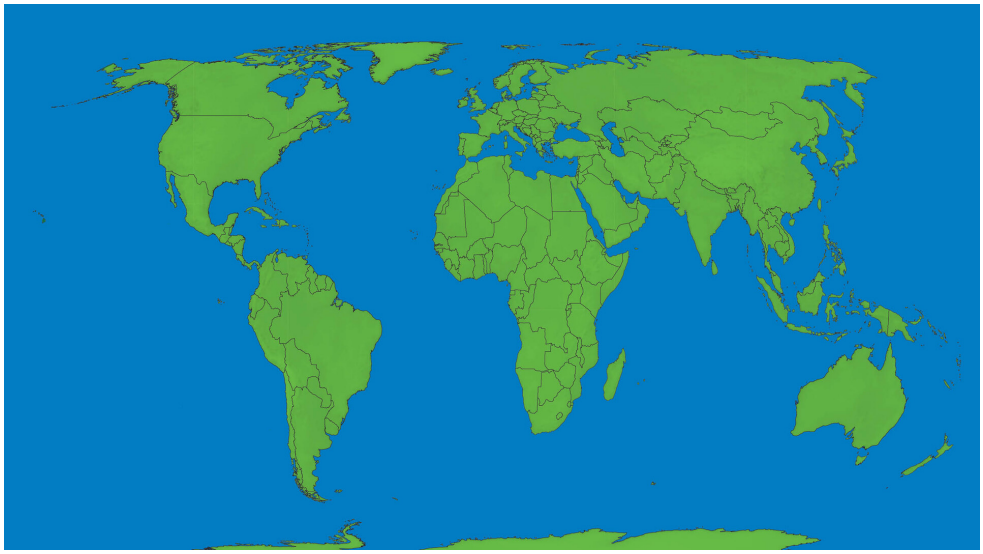
US states but the first letter is missing



World map (if approaching Earth from below)



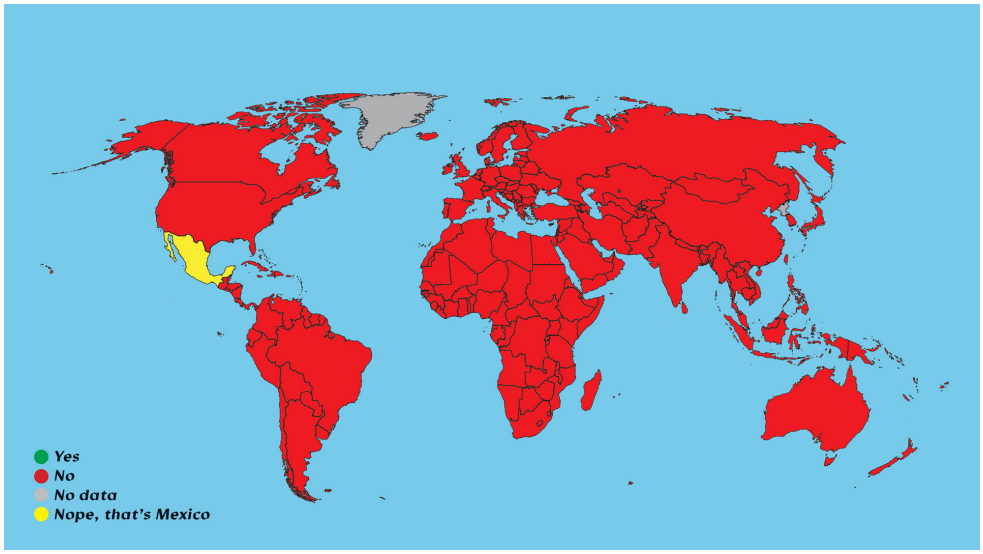
Countries arranged by geographical location



Literally all statistics about Italy

Map of every pub in the UK

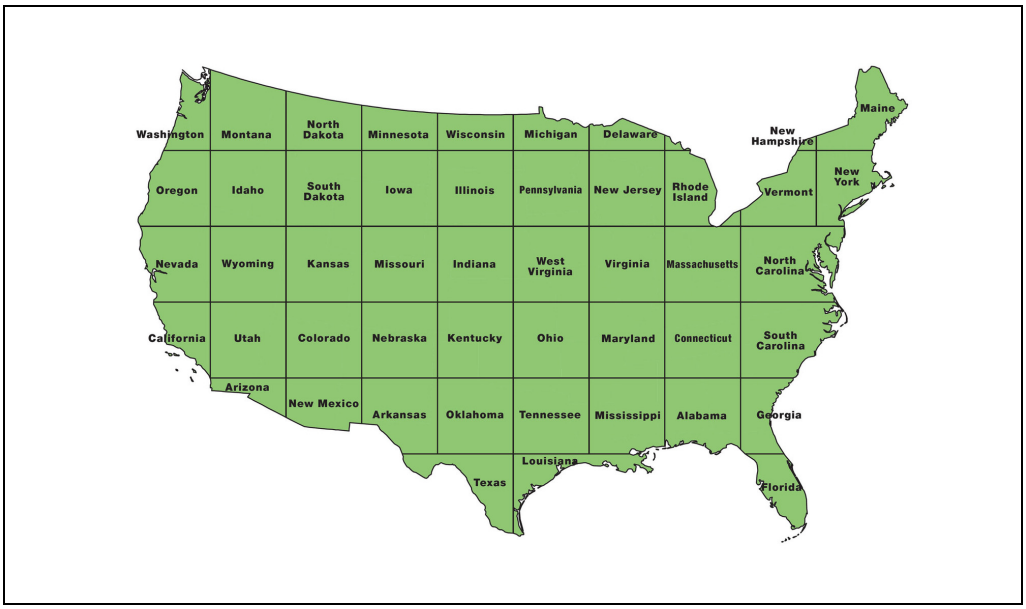
Is this country Greenland?



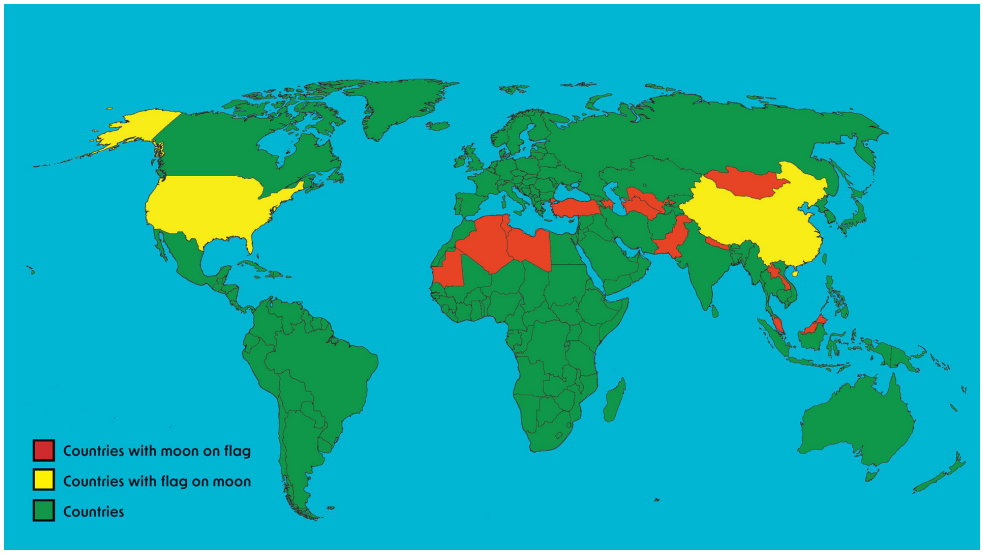
When you can’t afford a trip to Europe

Place names of the UK and Ireland

OCD USA

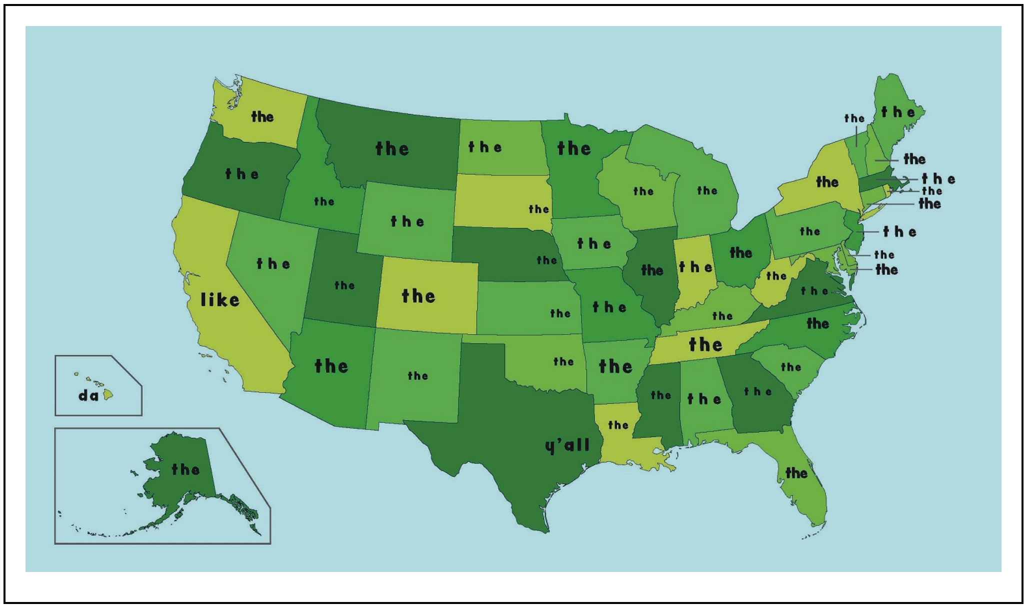

Washington
Montana
North Dakota
Minnesota
Wisconsin
Michigan
Delaware
New Hampshire
Maine
Oregon
Idaho
South Dakota
Iowa
Illinois
Pennsylvania
New Jersey
Rhode Island
Vermont
New York
Nevada
Wyoming
Kansas
Missouri
Indiana
West Virginia
Virginia
Massachusetts
North Carolina
California
Utah
Colorado
Nebraska
Kentucky
Ohio
Maryland
Connecticut
South Carolina
Arizona
New Mexico
Arkansas
Oklahoma
Tennessee
Mississippi
Alabama
Georgia
Louisiana
Texas
Florida

Moon on flag vs flag on moon



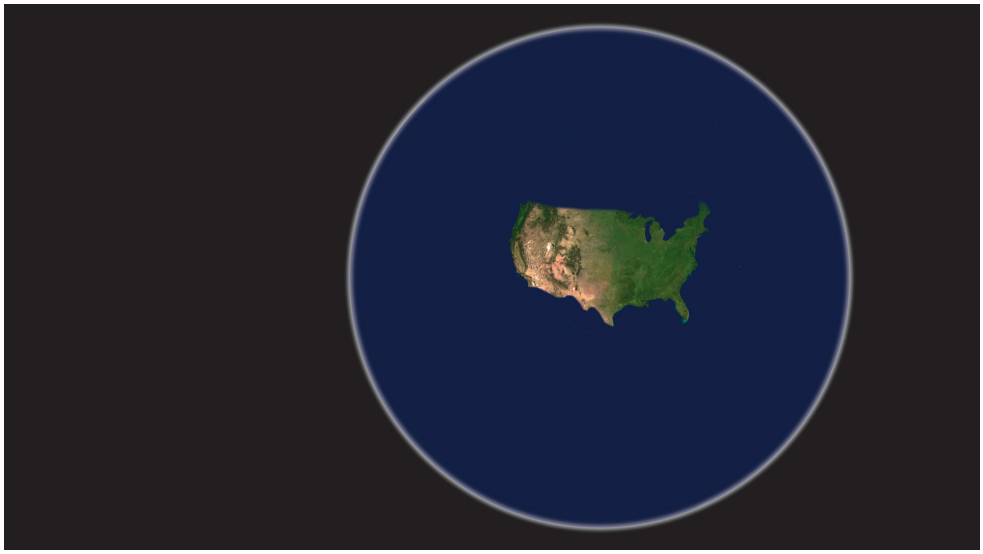
Words for ‘Coma’ in European languages (someone didn’t get the memo…)

The most popular word in each state



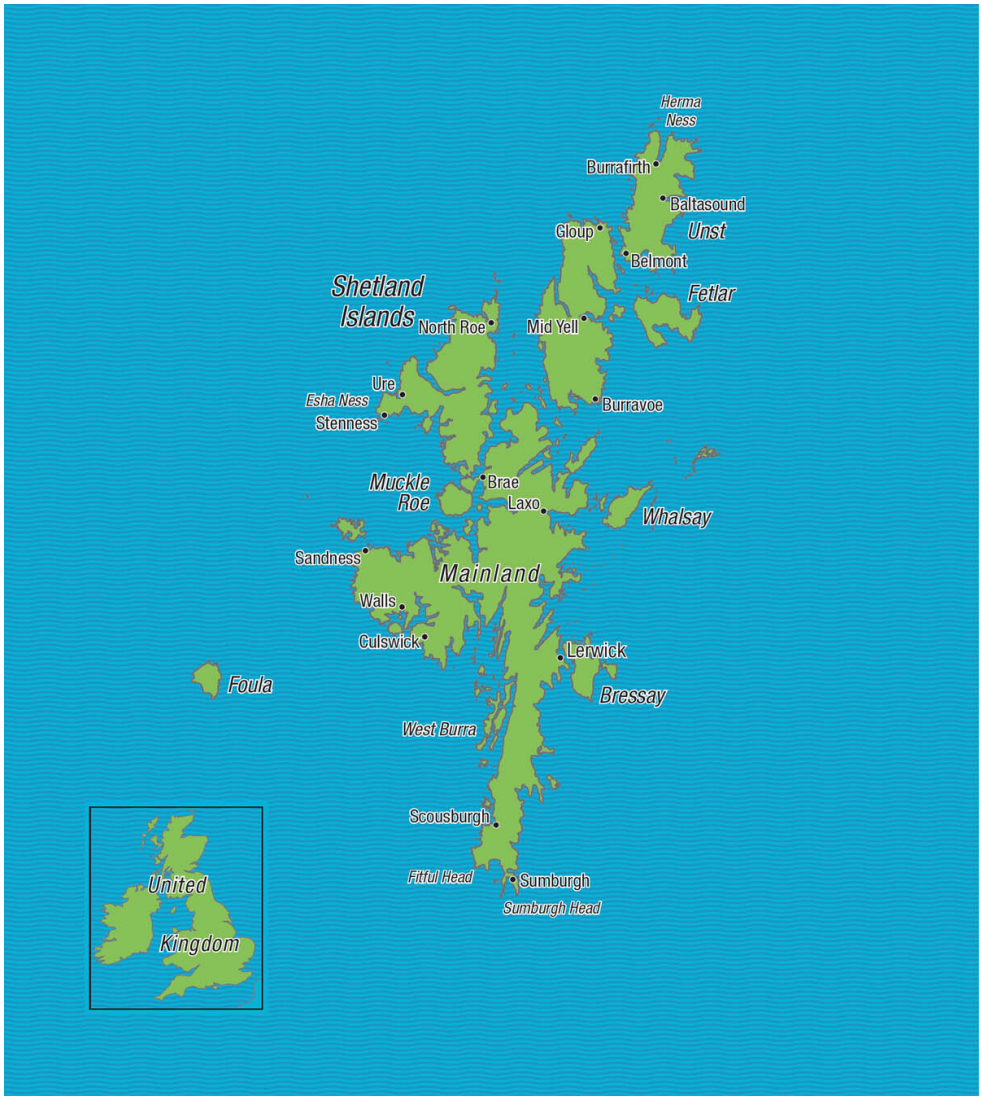
Europe according to Americans

How aliens see Earth



If Great Britain was located next to Japan

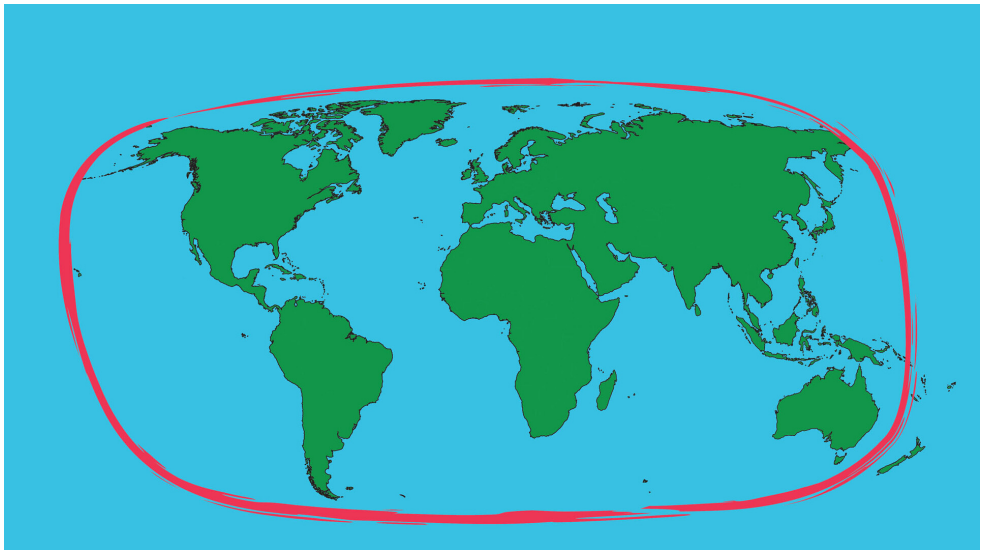
Map of the UK (Shetland's Revenge)



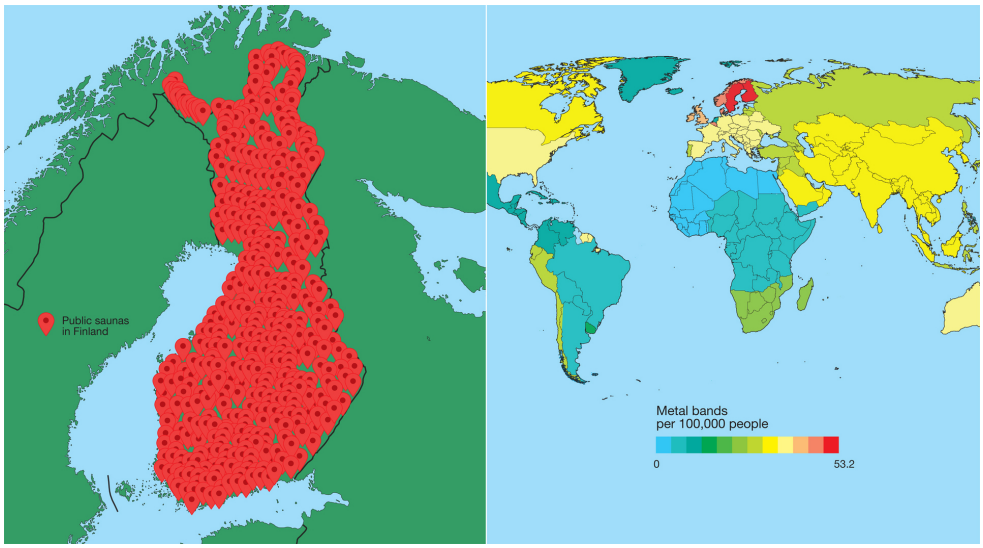
The true size of Africa

Duck, Duck, Map – DUCK!

More people live inside the circle than outside of it

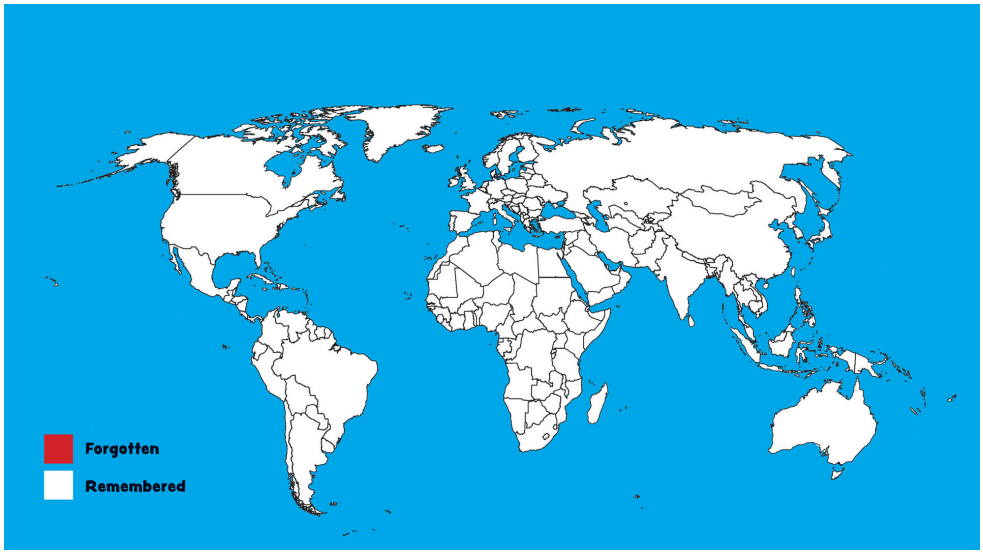


Now we know what they get up to in Finland…

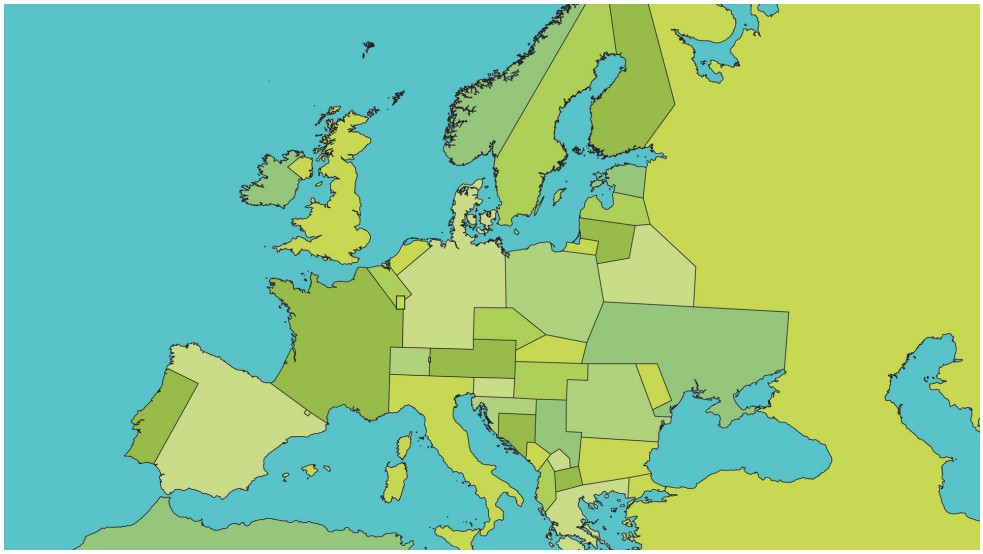


Bosnians and Herzegovinians: I wanna swim. Croatia: No

Map of countries that are often omitted from maps



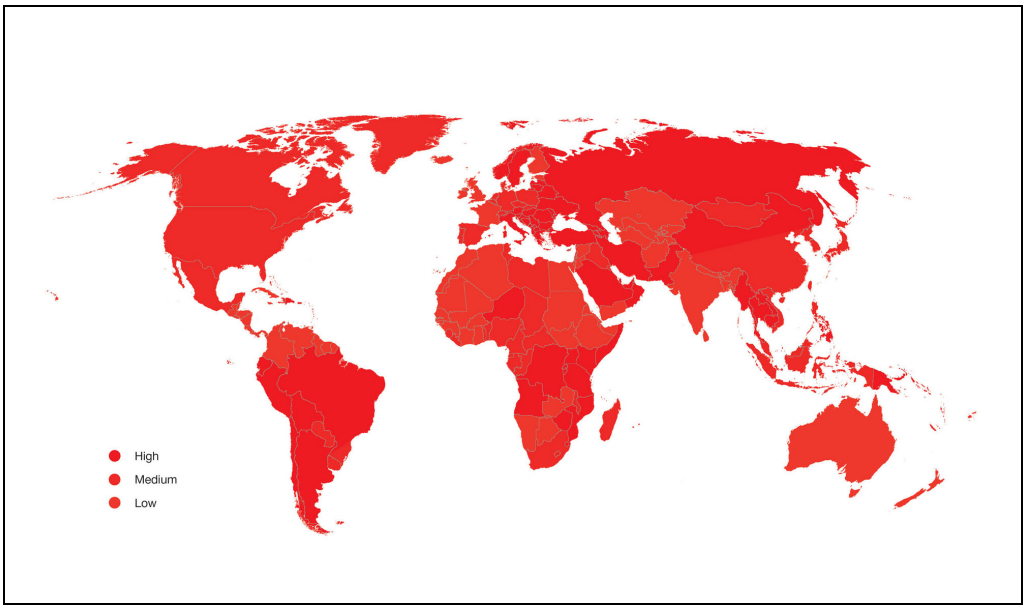
Europe but if Europe colonised it



Restaurant order preferences in Africa

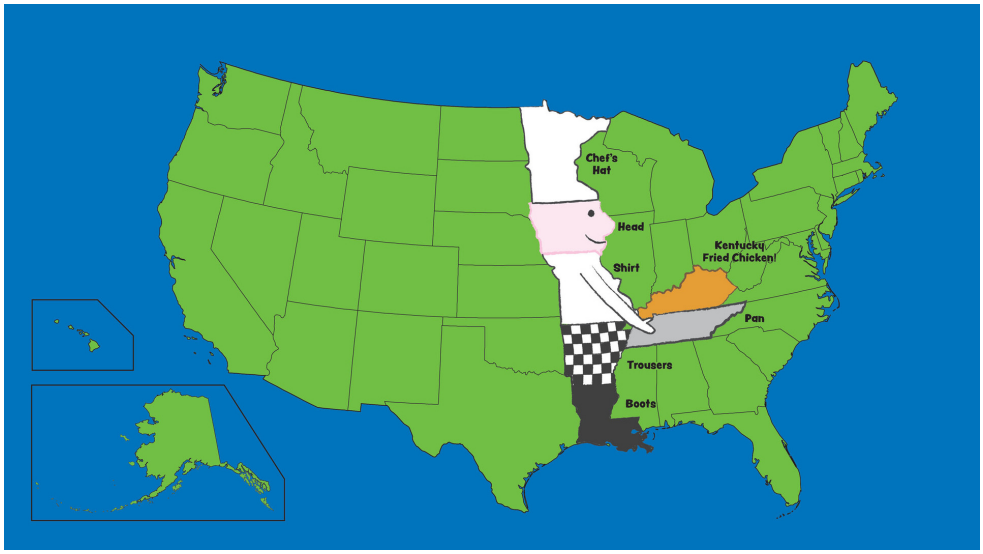
Map of Nice people

Prevalence of colour blindness worldwide

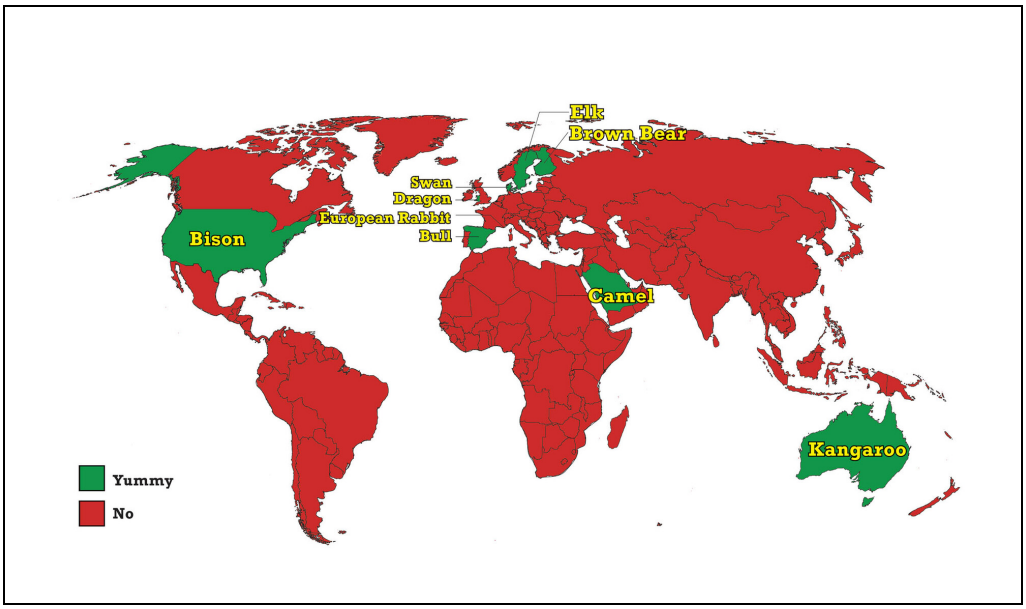


A map of Europe with the naughty bits censored

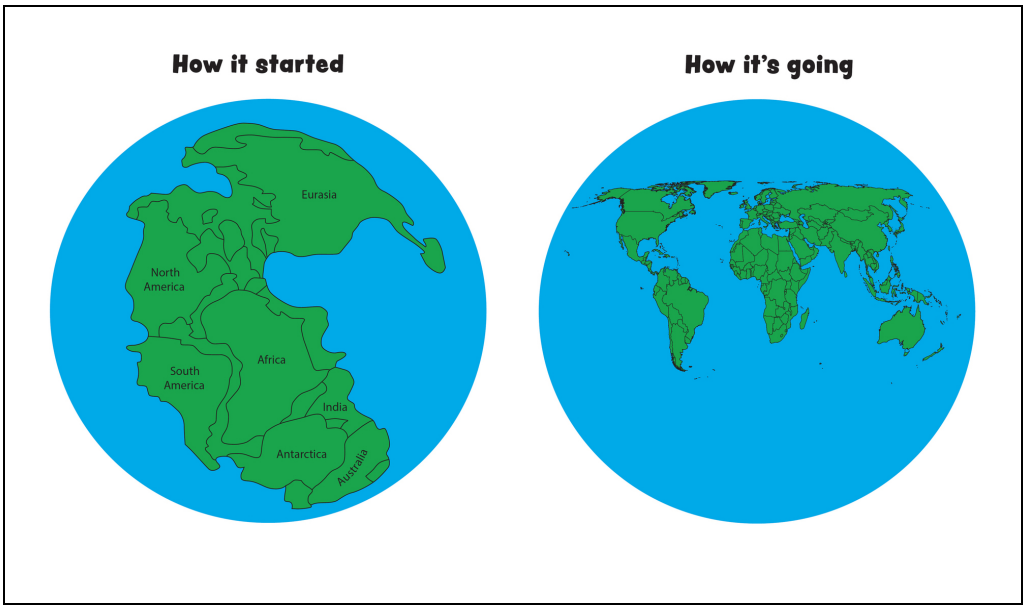
How to find Kentucky



Countries that eat their national animals



How it started/How it’s going

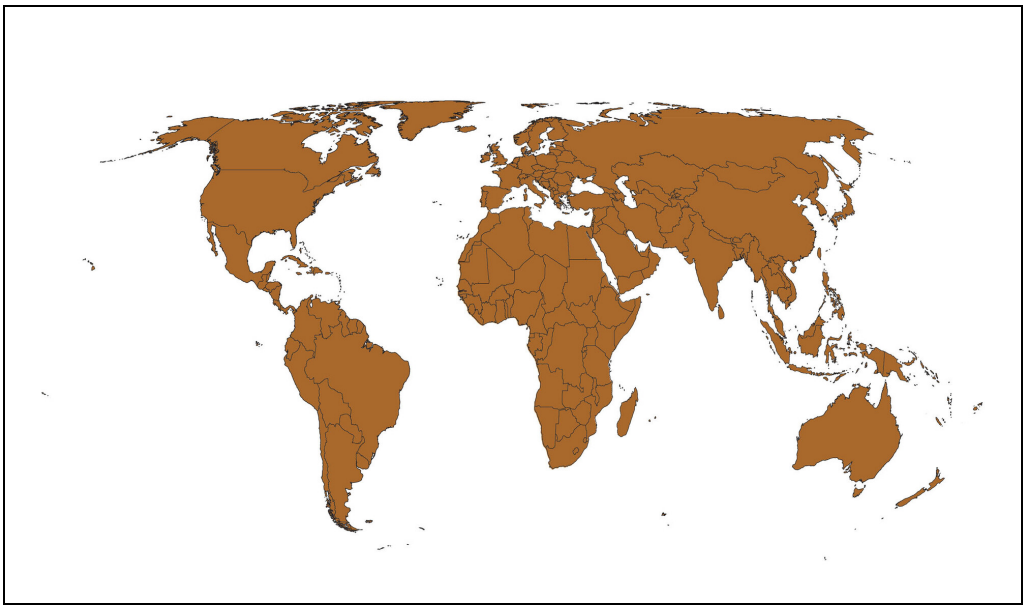


South America vs Pluto

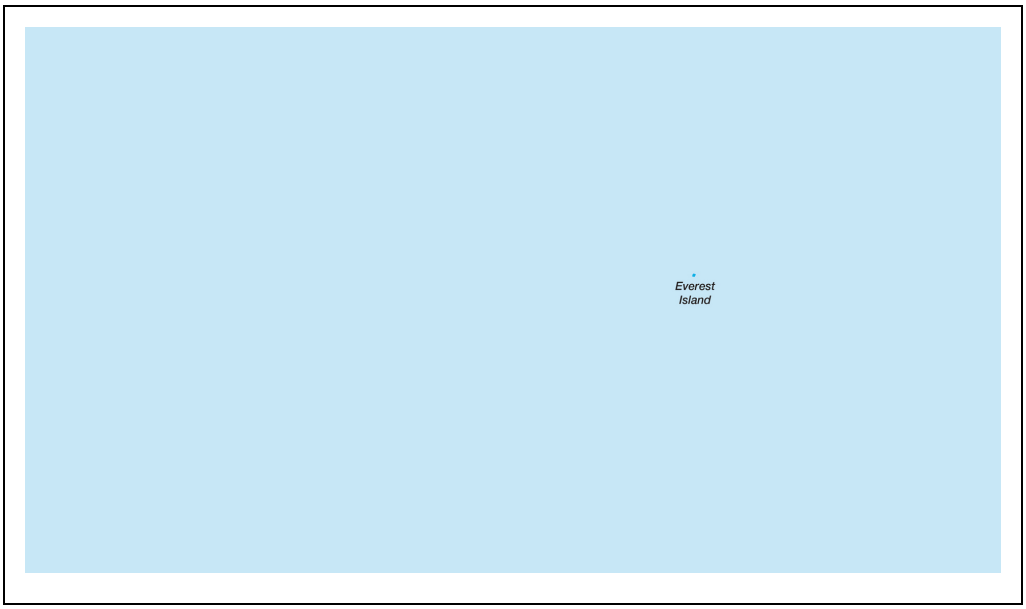
A Southerner's view of the UK and Ireland

Map of Earth if there was no land

Average flag colour by latitude

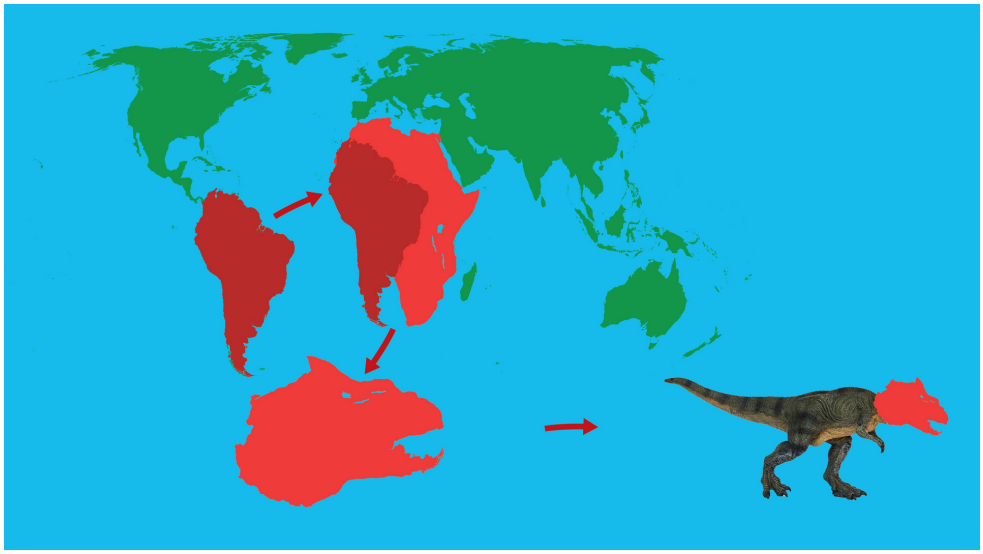


World map after an 8,800m sea level rise



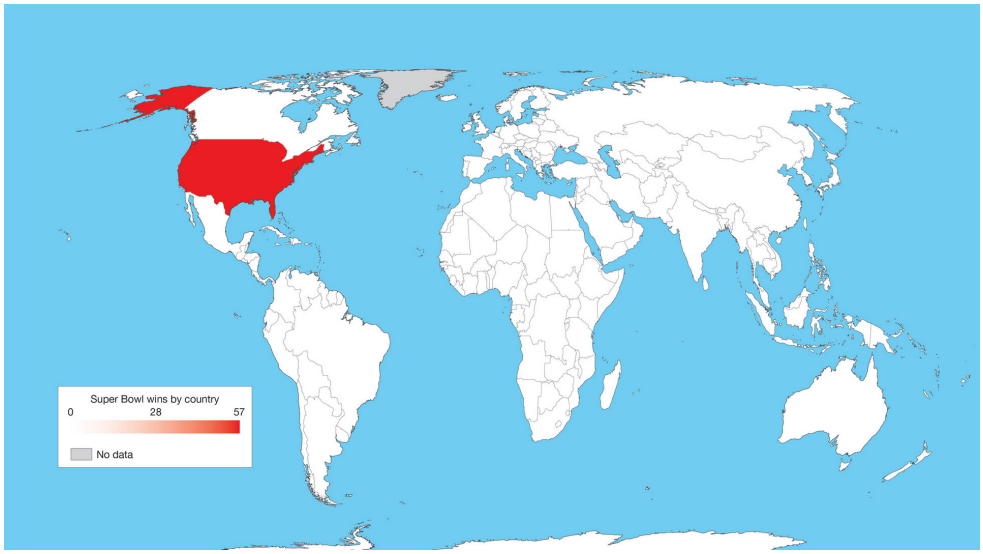
When a band announces a world tour

Maposaurus rex

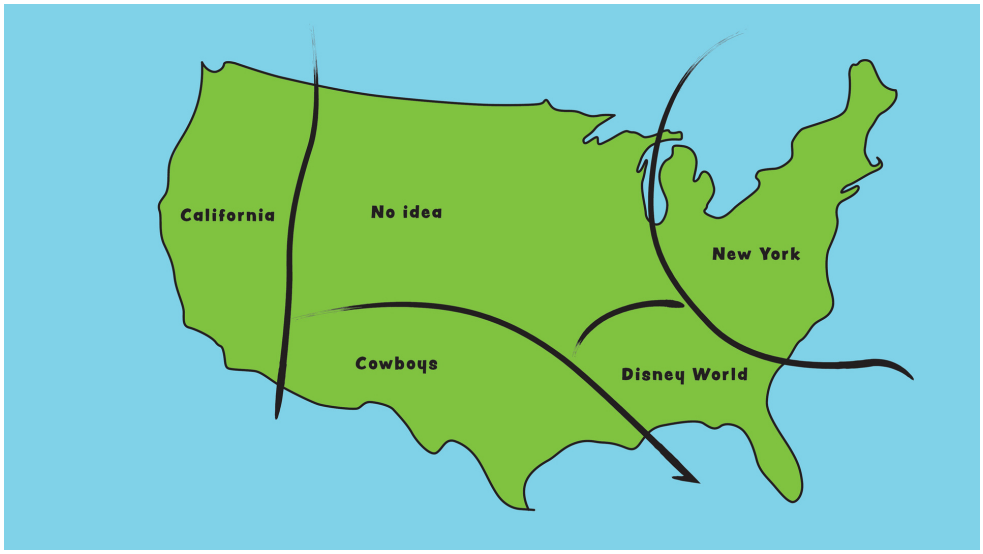


The legality of waking a sleeping bear to take its picture

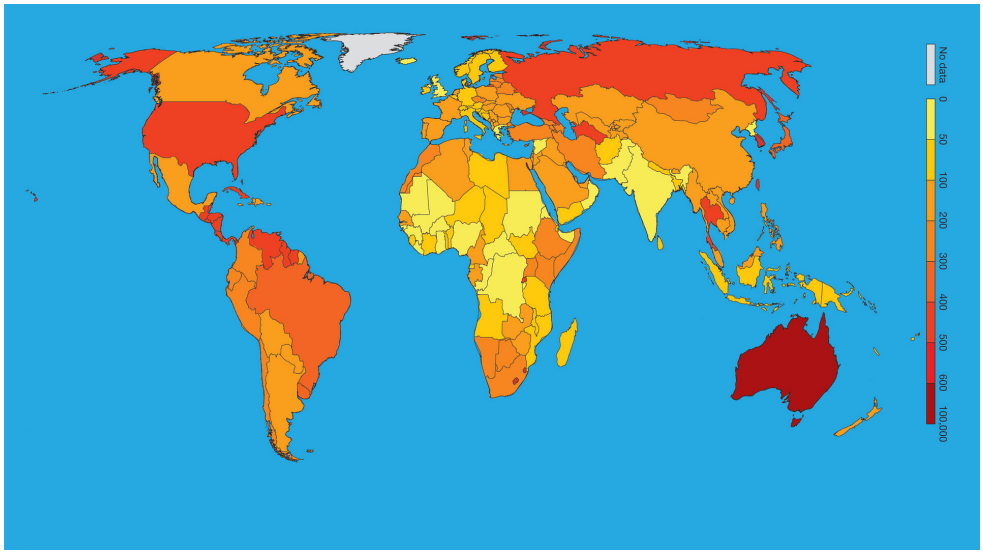
Super Bowl wins by country



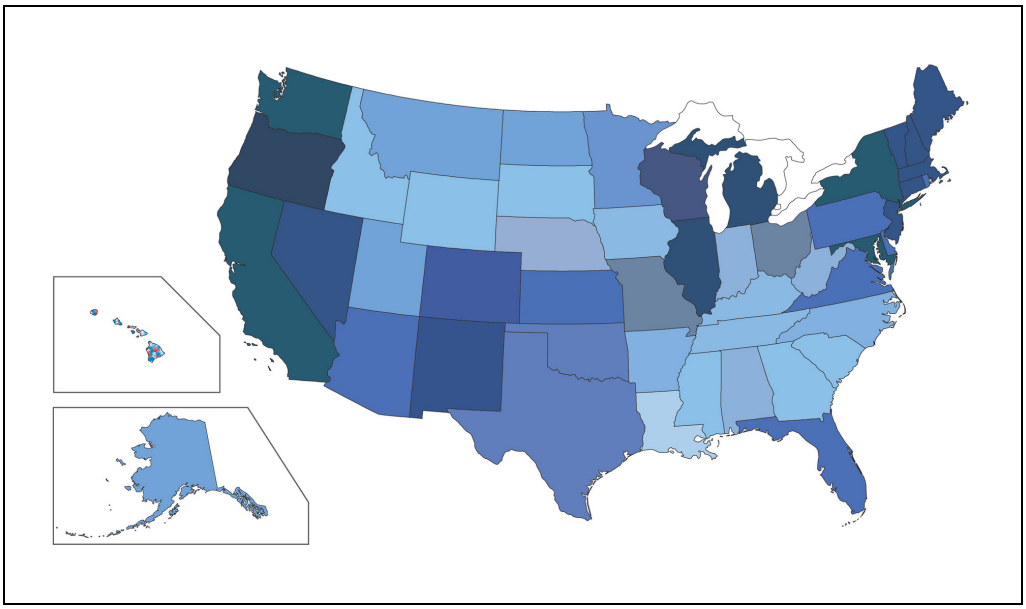
How the rest of the world sees the USA



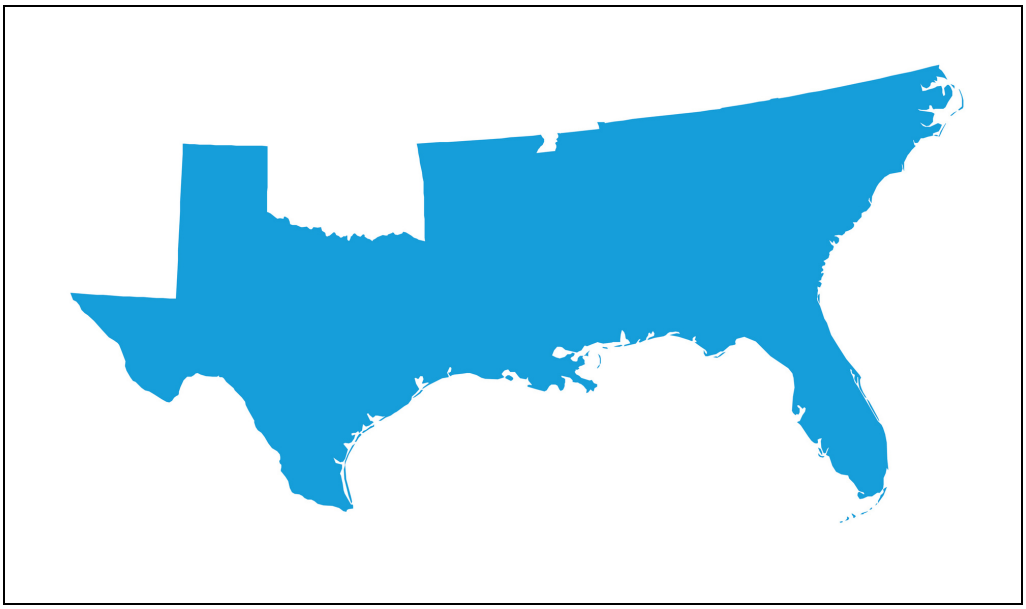
Prison population per 100,000 people



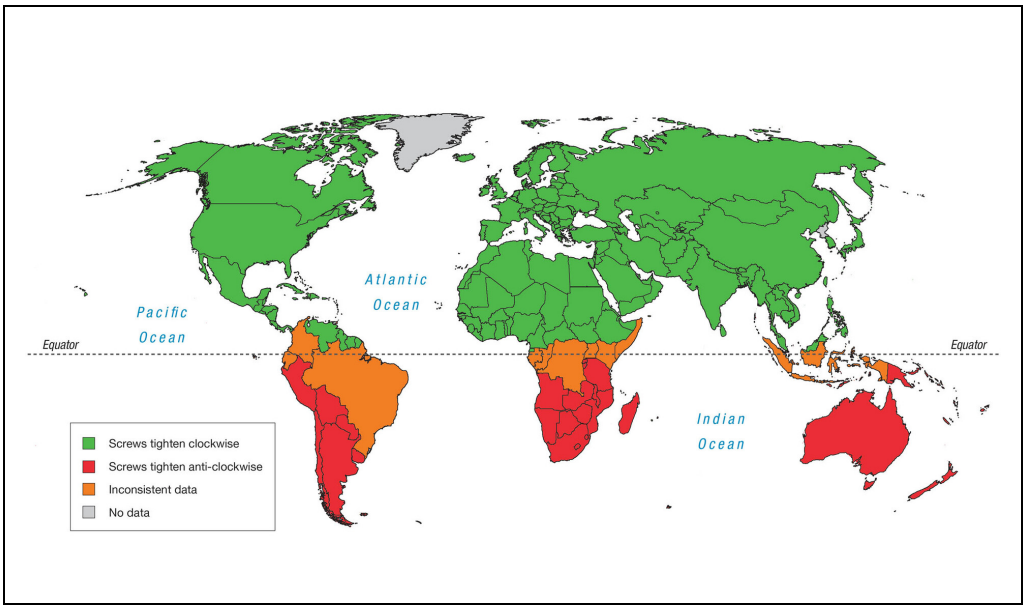
Average jeans colour by state



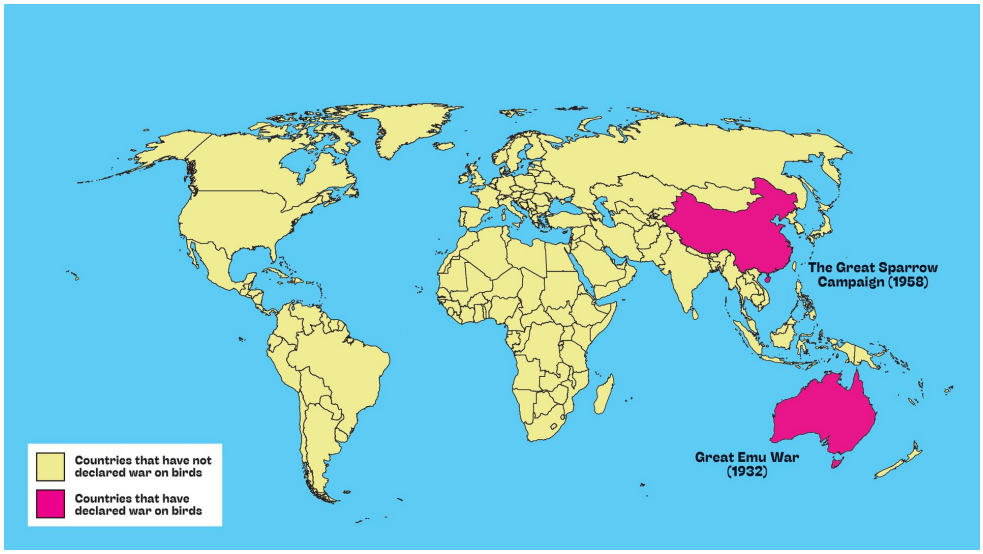
Map of South America



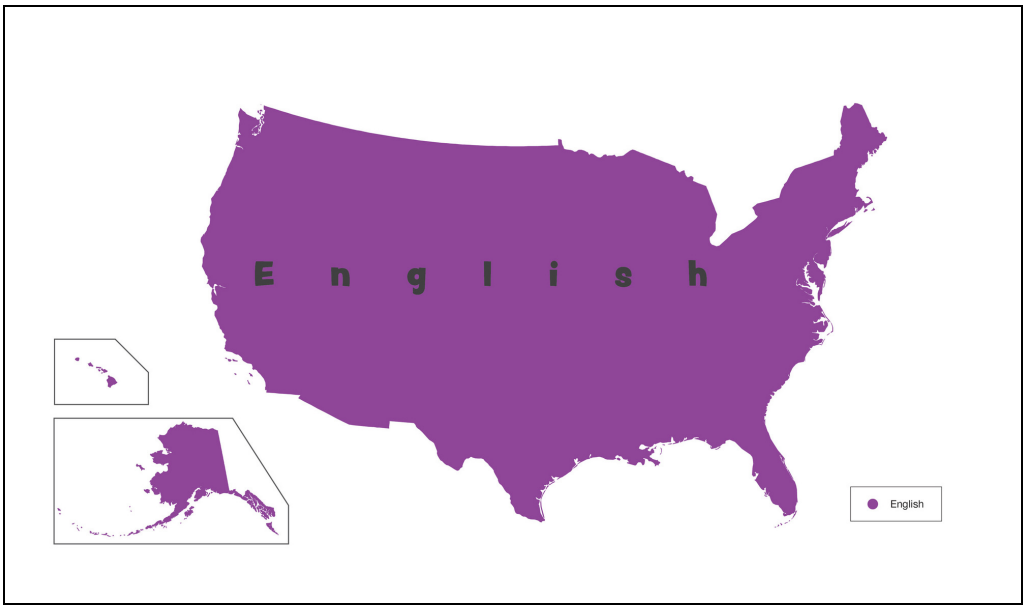
Which way do you screw?



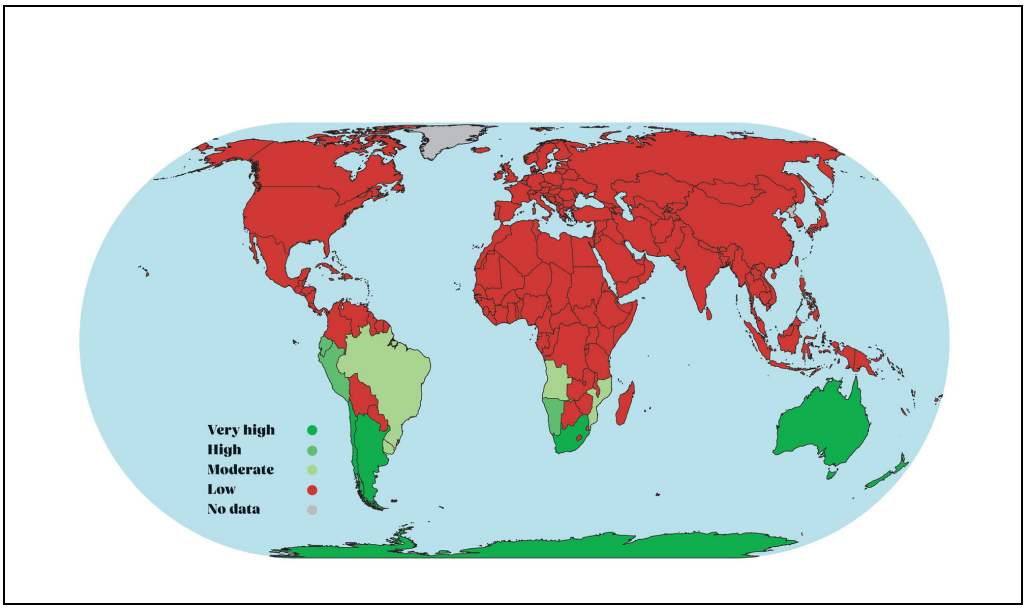
Countries that have declared war on birds … and lost



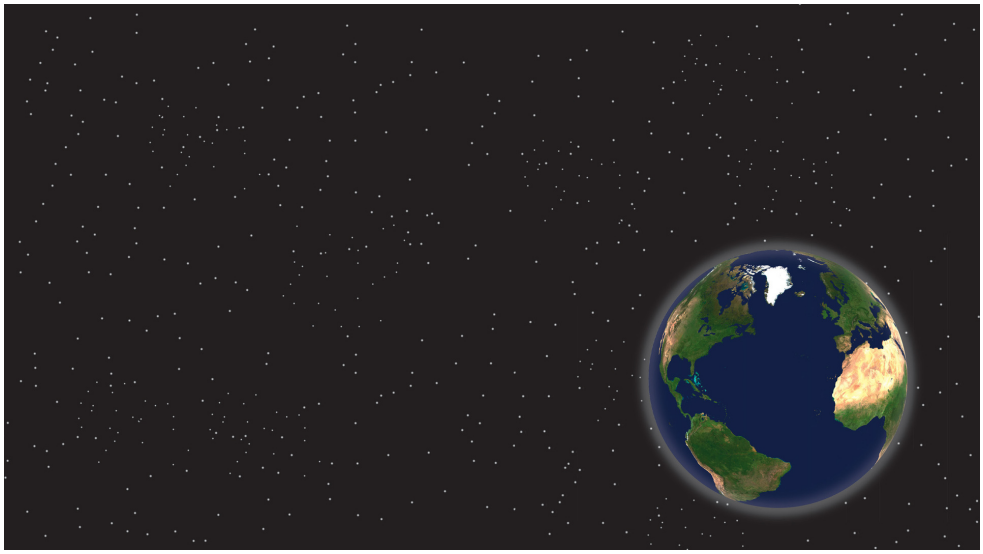
The most widely spoken language other than Spanish by state



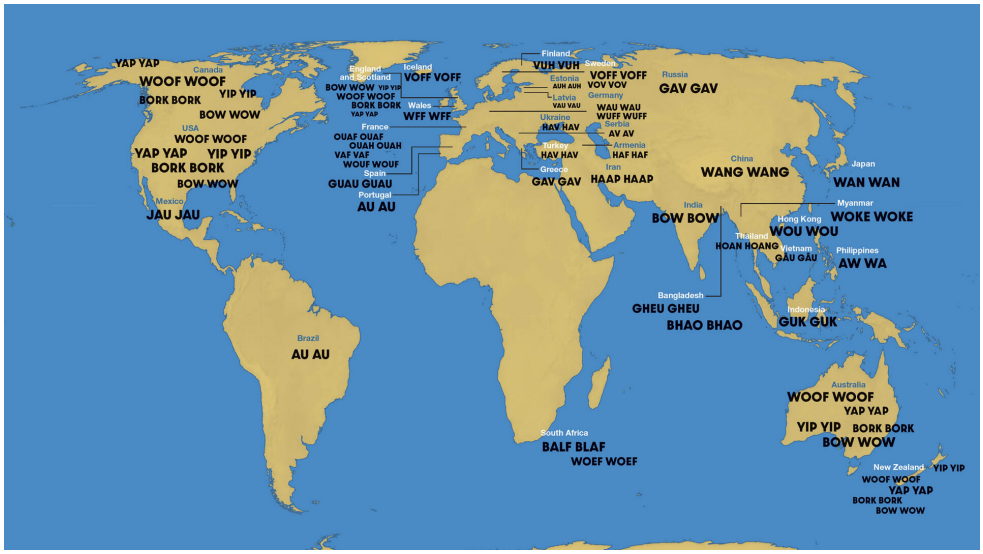
Countries by human development if human development was based on the number of wild penguins



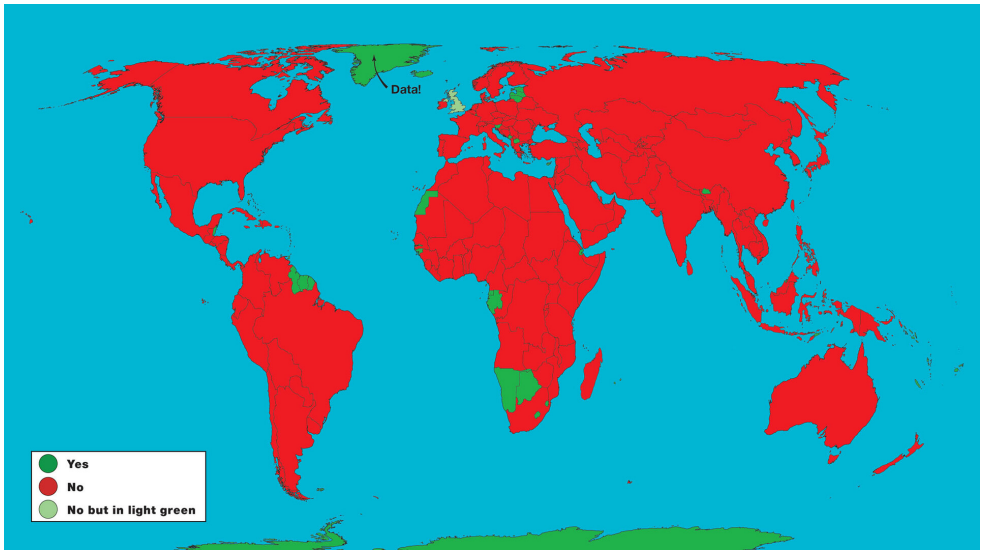
Map showing the origin of Miss Universe winners (1952-present)



How dogs bark in different languages



Does Terrible Maps have a larger social media following than the population of your country?



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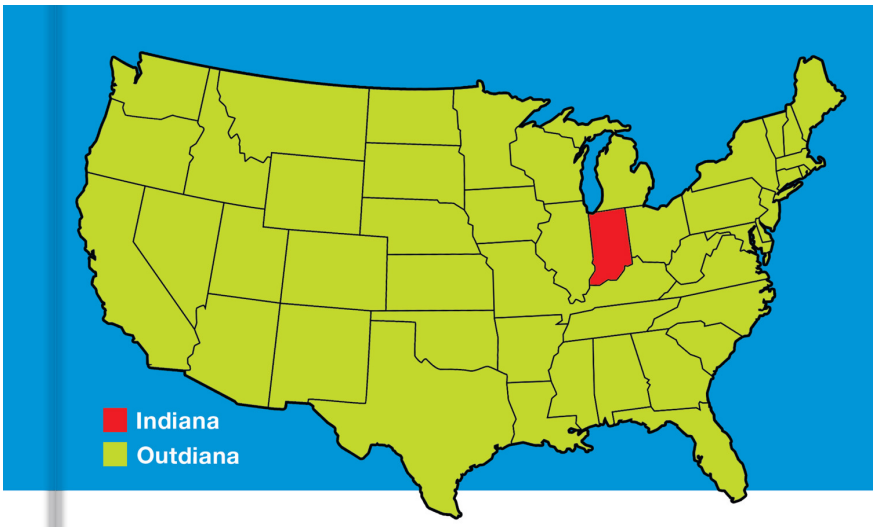

Terrible Maps

Hilarious Maps for a Ridiculous World